

Dental Hygienist Scope of Practice To Include Administration of Local Anesthesia and Nitrous Oxide

Public Act No. 423 went into effect on June 5, 2002 and Public Act No. 30 went into effect on March 22, 2004. These acts provide for the delegation to a dental hygienist, by a dentist and under the direct supervision of a dentist, the ability to administer intraoral block and infiltration anesthesia or nitrous oxide analgesia to a patient who is 18 years of age or older. In order to administer local anesthesia or nitrous oxide, the hygienist must have completed a Department of Community Health approved training program, passed a state or regional board administered written exam within 18 months of taking the approved course, if available and possess current certification in basic or advanced cardiac life support.

Applicants can download applications for certification at http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mdch_rdh_appkt_84030_7.pdf.

The steps for certification in one or both areas are listed below.

1. Training programs

Current Michigan licensed dental hygienists must complete a Department of Community Health approved training program for local anesthesia. The list of approved continuing education programs for local anesthesia follows.

Approved Dental Hygiene Local Anesthesia CE Programs

2002DHILA01	University of Michigan – School of Dentistry
2002DHILA02	University of Detroit-Mercy – School of Dentistry
2002DHILA03	Ferris State University – College of Allied Health Sciences
2002DHILA04	Grand Rapids Community College (Dental Auxiliary Programs)
2002DHILA05	Wayne County Community College District – Northwest Campus (Dental Auxiliary Programs)
2002DHILA06	Delta College – Dental Hygiene Program
2003DHILA07	Lansing Community College Dental Hygiene Program
2003DHILA08	Mott Community College
2003DHILA09	Baker College of Port Huron

2003DHLA10	Kalamazoo Valley Community College
2004DHLA11	Kellogg Community College

Current Michigan licensed dental hygienists must complete a Department of Community Health approved training program for nitrous oxide. The list of approved continuing education programs for nitrous oxide follows.

Approved Dental Hygiene Nitrous Oxide CE Programs

2004DHN001	University of Michigan – Dept of Periodontics
2004DHN002	Lansing Community College – Dental Hygiene Program
2004DHN003	Grand Rapids Community College Continuing Education and Professional Development
2004DHN004	Delta College – Dental Hygiene Program
2004DHN005	University of Detroit Mercy – School of Dentistry
2004DHN006	Mott Community College – Dept of Dental Hygiene
2004DHN007	Kellogg Community College

Recent graduates of ADA/CODA approved programs

Recent graduates of ADA/CODA approved dental hygiene programs may already have the training necessary to do the procedures without taking additional training. Check with the dental hygiene program to see if the program included the necessary training.

Current licensees who wish to administer local anesthesia and/or nitrous oxide

All current licensees have the opportunity to complete an approved continuing education program. Successful completion of the training program is the first requirement.

Graduates of out-of-state programs

If the dental hygienist trained out of state, s/he will have to review the course requirements listed in the law and compare them to the training received. The law can be viewed at www.michigan.gov/healthlicense under Dentistry. The hygienist can submit the course syllabi to the Department for review. A letter

indicating if the coursework was substantially equivalent will be sent to the hygienist. Send the information to:

Dept of Community Health
Bureau of Health Professions
P.O. Box 30670
Lansing, MI 48909

ATTN: Board of Dentistry

2. Examination

NERB Local Anesthesia Examination

Upon completion of training, individuals seeking certification in local anesthesia will need to successfully complete the local anesthesia examination offered by the North East Regional Boards (NERB). Information about the test can be found at www.nerb.org. Applications can be obtained by calling the NERB offices at 301-563-3300 or fax a request for an application to NERB at 301-563-3307.

Nitrous Oxide Examination

No examination is required because currently no examination is available for applicants seeking certification in the administration of nitrous oxide.

3. Maintenance of current certification in basic or advanced cardiac life support

In order to continue to administer local anesthesia or nitrous oxide, dental hygienists must maintain certification in basic or advanced cardiac life support. (This is also a requirement for renewal of the dental hygiene license.)

Frequently Asked Questions

1. I have completed all the steps to certification, what do I do now?

You should download the application for licensure in dental hygiene, which includes the application for certification in local anesthesia and nitrous oxide. You can find the application at http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mdch_rdh_appkt_84030_7.pdf.

You should submit proof of your training and your current certification in cardiac life support to us. (You must also have a current dental hygienist license.) NERB results are automatically reported to the state.

Upon review and acceptance of these documents, we will issue a new dental hygiene license that will include the certification that you have met. If you apply for both, it will list that you hold a dental hygiene license, local anesthesia certification and nitrous oxide certification.

Certification in local anesthesia and/or nitrous oxide analgesia in Michigan means that the individual has voluntarily submitted proof to the Michigan Department of Community Health of compliance with the requirements as defined in the law for the legal administration of local and/or nitrous oxide.

2. Is there any requirement for renewal of this training?

The legislation only discusses maintenance of current cardiac life support certification. It would be assumed that you would maintain your skills in local anesthesia or nitrous oxide administration as part of your continuing education requirement but there are no specific mandates for upgrading your skills. The certification is a permanent attachment to your license unless you ask us to remove it.

3. I want to apply for my dental hygiene license and be certified in both local anesthesia and nitrous oxide administration but I have not completed the test in local anesthesia. Do I have to wait until I have completed that test to apply for my license?

You should indicate when you submit your application what you want us to do. If you do not say anything, we will hold your application until you meet the criteria for full licensure and certification in each type of administration before we approve your application. We can issue the dental hygienist license separately and the certifications later, if you indicate that is how you want us to proceed.

4. I have my dental hygiene license and want to become certified in only the administration of local anesthesia or nitrous oxide analgesia. Can I do that?

You can complete the application, provide the documentation of your training, and your current CPR certification and submit them to the Department. If you qualify, a new license will be issued to you that indicates you are a dental hygienist with certification in local anesthesia or nitrous oxide analgesia.